

From: Trance Kuja
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 11:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Case

Dear US Department of Justice,

On the Microsoft Antitrust case, many issues concern us. As part of the public, we have views which we wish to be expressed during Microsoft's trial. The two main issues are Microsoft's bundling deal and the settlement with the states.

Microsoft should be able to have the states receive the money and forget the case. It is fair only if the money given is able to compensate for any damages/losses due to Microsoft. As John D. Rockefeller said during the Preliminary Report on Trusts and Industrial Combinations there are many advantages to trusts and other forms of "industrial combinations." He lists a few of the most significant advantages as "extension of limits of business, increase of number of persons interested in the business, and power to give the public improved products at less prices and still make profit for stockholders." Additionally, he also stated that "combination is necessary and its abuses can be minimized," meaning that there are minimal disadvantages which, in fact, are so trivial that they should not be any concern.

The major cause of the trial is Microsoft's action of "bundling" software. Bundling software is a result of combining products together and having them sold without separation. Thus, people would not spend the money to buy an additional program when they already have a substitute. This has caused the Netscape/Microsoft Trial. This trial has been caused after a complete reversal in Internet Browser Usage. Around 1995 when Netscape launched its first browser, about 80% of the "web surfers" used their software. Additionally, Microsoft had virtually none. Now, there is a complete reversal in which only about 10% of the Internet browsers used are not Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Netscape is part of that 10%, and bundling causes this whole dilemma. In addition, Microsoft's bundling its web browser with its operating system is absolutely fine. This is because if Netscape had an OS, it could also bundle, but it chooses not to. Thus, the representatives of the public should allow Microsoft to pay the states. In the case with Netscape, the courts should not punish Microsoft since Netscape could do everything Microsoft has done.

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